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**Schools Tout State
Test Scores**

**Cliff Homes to
Be Demolished**

**Commissioners Briefed
on Domestic Violence**

LAST RIDE FOR WATER PARK?



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“THE ABILITY TO SWIM SAVES ADULT AND CHILDREN’S LIVES.”

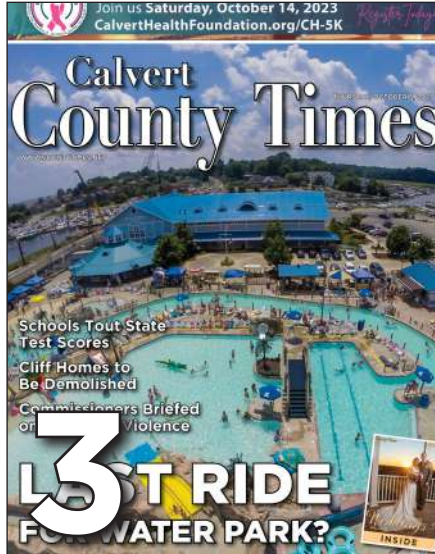
CHESAPEAKE BEACH MAYOR PAT MAHONEY ON THE NEED FOR A COMMUNITY POOL



LOCAL 6
Domestic violence plagues Calvert



LOCAL 7
Hit-and-run victim seeks help from public



ON THE COVER
Chesapeake Beach Waterpark’s future uncertain

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, OCT 5 Partly Cloudy Hi: 78° Lo: 63°	FRI, OCT 6 Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 60°	SAT, OCT 7 Showers Hi: 64° Lo: 48°	SUN, OCT 8 Mostly Sunny Hi: 62° Lo: 45°
MON, OCT 9 Mostly Sunny Hi: 63° Lo: 48°	TUE, OCT 10 Partly Cloudy Hi: 68° Lo: 48°	WED, OCT 11 Sunny Hi: 67° Lo: 49°	THU, OCT 12 Sunny Hi: 70° Lo: 53°

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Proposal: Renovate Town Water Park into an Aquatic Center

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Chesapeake Beach Mayor Pat Mahoney and town staff have proposed repurposing the town's water park into a community pool like ones at Cove Point and King's Landing parks. The proposal is to close the water park for the 2024 season and open the renovated facility in 2025.

Mahoney said, "We need community more than ever. One benefit of the Covid pandemic has been the clarity that a sense of community has on our wellbeing. We need opportunities for gathering to provide a sense of togetherness. We need opportunities to socialize with our neighbors, our friends, and our families. What better way to provide a sense of community than through recreational amenities? I find the concept of a Chesapeake Beach Aquatic Center to be very exciting. The town has not had a pool for children, families, and seniors to swim for 51 years, when the town's population was 326 people. We now have a population of over 6,500 people."

He added, "Living on the Chesapeake Bay, we need pools for our children to learn and practice swimming, for adults to cool off and socialize, lounge chairs for adults to relax, read, and telework. The ability to swim saves adult and children's lives."

The town would contract a company that



Two proposed plans for the aquatic facility

specializes in pool facility design to come up with a plan. Town Engineer Wayne Newton presented two possible design options to the town council at an Oct. 3 work session that he said would cost between \$3 million and \$5 million, but the exact cost would be dependent on the design.

The two designs incorporate a leisure pool, a competition pool, and a kid's splash pad.

Mayor Mahoney proposed using some of

the \$4 million in federal ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds the town has received to help pay for the new facility.

Mahoney said, "What better way to acknowledge and tell our citizens how we spent our money; we used half, two-thirds, whatever to build you the aquatic center."

The renovation would incorporate as much of the existing water park as possible, most notably the pilings on which the park sits. So, the extent of what is to be demolished has yet to be determined.

One existing part of the water park that is not likely to survive is the popular lazy river. That requires 18 lifeguards to supervise, while the community pool would only require five, Town Administrator Holly Wahl reported.

The reduction in the number of lifeguards was bemoaned by Councilwoman Valerie Beaudin. She said, "I think one of the biggest things we'll lose is the employment opportunities that the waterpark provided for our children. Um, from the age of 14 on. Remember 49 percent of the water park staff in the last report that I remember came from Chesapeake Beach. And that's a shame. But, with the state of the current water park, I think it's inevitable in some manner, but that ought to be a recognized, what that waterpark has meant as a first job opportunity for our children."

But it is the cost to operate and maintain the 30-year-old water park that is its undoing. Town Treasurer Brittany Moran reported at the work session that the water park lost more than \$700,000 this year and even with a reduction in admission charges to increase attendance, is on the path to lose more than \$1 million next year. not to men-

tion some expensive maintenance costs on the horizon.

Moran talked about responses to a citizen survey. She said, "Through the survey responses and actual attendance, we found that the town residents have expressed their strong desire for the park to be utilized as a community amenity that's affordable and accessible as opposed to serving as a tourist attraction. Also, town residents have communicated their disapproval of offsetting the cost of out-of-town residents use of the park. However, the out-of-town residents have expressed an unwillingness to pay that true cost of use."

She said, "Beyond the 2024 season, there will be significant requirements from the general fund through the use of reserves, operating budget, or long-term debt, which includes a reoccurring annual operational offset, as well as immediate contributions for capital improvements."

Since it was a work session, no votes were taken, however there did seem to be a consensus among council members to proceed with the idea.

Councilman Charles Fink said, "There is nothing negative that I can come up with here. This is so exciting. It's an opportunity to really make something special."

But Councilman Larry Jaworski added, "I'm very, very supportive of this as an amenity for town residents, but I also think from an economic development point of view, we need to look at it as an attraction to bring people to town."

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School System Touts State Test Results

Math Scores Still Lag Pre-Pandemic Levels

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of Education received a briefing at their Sept. 28 meeting of the state-wide and local results of the most recent math and English Language Arts (ELA) scores for the 2022-2023 school year Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP). The results were released by the Maryland State Board of Education on Sept. 26. Calvert continues to be one of the state leaders in ELA and is showing improvement in mathematics. Math scores state-wide and locally still lag pre-pandemic levels but have now surpassed them for ELA.

Director of System and Instructional Performance Jacquelyn Jacobs said of the state-wide math results still not meeting pre-pandemic levels, "This trend is consistent across most student groups, including race, ethnicity, and gender. The percentage of students scoring at the lowest MCAT performance level decreased by two to five percentage points from school year 21-22 to school year 22-23 for math. In grades three through eight, combined in Algebra one, between 11 and 17 percent of students across the state in math were on the cusp of proficiency, defined as needing one average, just an additional one to three correct answers to reach proficiency statewide. The percentage of students scoring proficient on math, grades three through eight tests was 25 percent. School systems varied from a low of 9 percent to a high of 47 percent proficiency."

Jacobs said for math proficiency in grades three through eight, Calvert was at 35 percent.

"The percentage of students scoring proficient in mathematics, grades three through eight, increased by 2.5 percentage points from school year 21-22 to school year 22-23. Calvert County, as far as growth, ranked fourth with an improvement of 3.8 percentage points."

"We are proud of the work being done by our students, teachers, and staff to achieve these numbers," said Elementary Math Supervisor Julie Morrison.

The low point of the scores reported to the school board was Algebra 1. Jacobs said, "Statewide, the percentage of students scoring proficient in Algebra 1 test was 17 percent for school year 2223. School systems varied from a low of 6 percent to a high of 38 percent proficiency. Calvert County was at 22 percent of students proficient in the Algebra One assessment."

Secondary Math Supervisor Joe Sutton said, "The deeper dives we've done into the data have revealed that student growth in algebra does need more attention from us."

"Calvert County Public Schools climbed the rankings in Math Seven and Math Eight, and we lost some ground in Math Six and in Algebra One, and that has our attention for sure," Sutton admitted.

Sutton added, "We work to spread the practices that we see leading to uncommon success

and interrupt the practices that we see leading to uncommon lack of growth.

Throughout this process we redistribute time, resources, and learning experiences to maximize our teachers and our students' growth."

But he observed, "It's really important that we seek out context and avoid knee-jerk reactions."

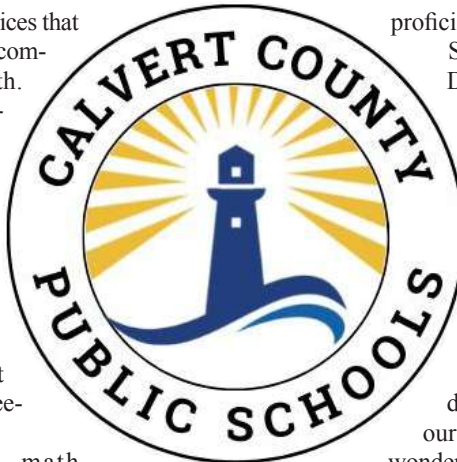
Regarding the math results, board member Lisa Grenis said, "Congratulations. It is exciting to see data increasing like this. No matter how big or how small, we're going in the right direction."

But Grenis also said to Sutton, "I congratulated you, but I also want to make sure that a congratulation goes out to the teachers for this because they're putting in the work, the students are putting in the work, and this is what we want to see."

It is in ELA that Calvert is really the rock star, with the county holding first place in the state for 10th grade scores.

Jacobs gave an overview of the ELA results: "Across the state, ELA proficiency rates for grades three through eight combined with English 10 are at the highest since the state transitions to PARC tests in 2015. This trend is consistent across most student groups, including race, ethnicity, and gender. ELA proficiency in grade three increased by two percentage points from school year 21-22 to 48 percent in school year 22-23 and grade three ELA a proficiency rates reached a nine-year high. The percentage rates of students scoring at the lowest performance level decreased by two to five percentage points from school year 21-22 to school year 22-23 for ELA in grades three through eight and English 10.

Jacobs said, "Forty-seven percent of students are proficient in ELA, grades three through eight tests. School systems varied from a low of 25 percent to a high of 68 percent in student proficiency rates. Calvert County was at 61 percent. Statewide, the percentage of students scoring proficient in ELA three through eight tests increased by 2.9 percentage points from school year 21-22 to school year 22-23. We are proud that Calvert County Public Schools was ranked first in growth with an average improvement of 8.9 percentage points. This is 2.9 percentage points higher than the next leading county. This is also a point of pride for us because we were already a high performing district heading into this testing. In spring 2023 statewide, the percentage of students scoring proficient on English 10 was 51 percent. For school year 22-23 school systems varied percent to a high of 82 percent in proficiency percentages. Calvert County English 10 was number one in the state with 82 percent of students



proficient."

School board member Dawn Balinski said, "It's going to be hard to improve on that because as you get higher, the percentages get smaller, the increase. But this is absolutely fantastic. We all know how important literacy is for an entire academic performance, for our students. This is just wonderful."

The available online reporting of the results "provides information to students and families, educators, school leaders, and policymakers to have a better understanding of school year 2022-2023 MCAP performance. This year, new enhanced reporting is available. Both overall school and grade results in ELA and mathematics are now available in the data downloads. This new reporting will enable users to view ELA and mathematics performance for each school overall, and for each grade. The school year 2022-2023 assessment results, including disaggregation of data by LEA and student

groups, were presented at the August 22, 2023, Maryland State Board of Education meeting," according to a press release from the state board.

The release goes on to say, "Families receive results for their students on all state assessments through Individual Student Reports (ISRs). These reports allow families to better understand a student's performance on Maryland content standards individually and as compared to peers in their school, county or city, and the State. ISRs provide students and families with information about students' scores and performance levels to identify strengths and areas of improvement.

"Additional data published Sept. 26 on the Maryland Report Card website includes school year 2022-2023 enrollment and student group population and school year 2021-2022 data on educator qualifications, per-pupil expenditures, and other supporting facts. School year 2022-2023 data will continue to be published on the Maryland Report Card as available."

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Cliff Homes to be Acquired, Demolished

Federal Funding Secured for Project

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded more than \$1.7 million for the purchase and demolition of three homes on the cliffs of Calvert in imminent danger due to cliff erosion and to purchase and demolish one repetitive flood loss property.

Calvert County government (CCG) will act as the passthrough subrecipient agency for the federal funding.

Emergency Management Specialist Kara R. Buckmaster, in a memo to the county commissioners, said that in addition to the monies in the two FEMA awards, "The grants provide \$80,990.65 and \$15,922.37, respectively, in sub-recipient management costs, which are 100 percent federally funded and serve as reimbursement to the CCG to offset the incurred costs associated with staff time."

Buckmaster explained, "The Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management Division, working with Calvert County residents, has applied for two Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grants to acquire and demolish multiple at-risk properties in the county. "

She said, "FEMA bears the costs of the projects at 90 percent of the approved budget and 10 percent by the homeowners."

She added, "Local jurisdictions must forward fund the projects and then submit requests for reimbursement as expenses are incurred."

When asked how many more homes needed to be eventually removed, Bickmaster said, "I believe, if I'm remembering correctly, the original study identified over 200 along the cliffs. Not all of them were high risk, but there are still multiple in CRE (Chesapeake Ranch Estates) there."

She added, "There are still several houses that as the erosion continues, will become higher risk, and eventually need assistance."

After a public hearing at the Oct. 3 County commissioner meeting, the board unanimously voted to sign the agreement with GFEMA for the funding.

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A Class Reunion More Than 60 Years in the Making



Members of the William Sampson Brooks High School Class of 1960 gather with their last surviving teacher, Beatrice Fletcher, (center in blue overcoat) at the headquarters of the Calvert Court Board of Education in Prince Frederick for a class reunion after more than six decades. The school system administrative offices once served as their high school.



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Domestic Violence Continues to Plague Calvert

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) proclaimed October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month at their Oct. 3 meeting. Later in the meeting the BOCC received a briefing on the festering problem overwhelming organizations charged with dealing with one of society's darker sides.

For instance, the sheriff's office received 1262 domestic violence calls in 2022, more than each of the previous three years.

And the 437 cases filed in FY '21 (the most recent reporting year) in district court were the second highest of the previous five years.

"Nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States," said Director of the Office of Community Services Jennifer Moreland. "That's 10 million annually."

She added, "There's a total of eight million days of paid work lost each year and on average, intimate partner violence costs exceed \$8.3 billion per year."

"The gravity of this issue really tells you that it's vital to have a very comprehensive and well-coordinated response," Moreland said.

Moreland observed "Data's a tricky thing because you want people to call. So sometimes those numbers mean that they're being proactive. What we were very concerned about during the pandemic is that they weren't, that people felt they didn't have any options to leave their spouse."

The cycle of domestic violence from one generation to another also can involve "substance abuse, mental health issues, all sorts of health issues for those children. And that continues to cause issues for the community down the road," she said.

For the victims, Moreland said, "They need to know the resources that are out there, and access to information on their rights, options, resources, and how to develop a safety plan because it takes people several times. I think the average is seven encounters puntilla they make that choice to leave."

Childcare, financial assistance, healthcare and family planning and housing. These are all really critical for the victim to leave their abuser," Moreland said.

The Center for Change offers programs through the Calvert County Health Department Center for Change. Center Clinical Supervisor Sarah Disher said, "We provide services at our Lusby office, as well as our Prince Frederick location. Our office also provides a24/7 crisis Hotline through Calvert Crisis response. And the phone number for that is 1-877-467-FIVE 6 2 8. We also provide therapy for children, adolescents, and adults. We also provide crisis planning, which kind of goes along with what Jennifer said."

She added, "We also provide accompaniment to the hospital and for protective orders if victims feel like they need additional support. We provide advocacy in legal matters and referral to the Safe Harbor Shelter."

Also, their Abuse Intervention Program has a goal "to increase the safety of our survivors in our community. We also try to hold the offending individuals accountable and promote positive change towards non-violent behaviors, which promotes healthy relationships."

She explained, "We provide highly structured curriculum and content in weekly group sessions. And the requirement is that they have to attend for a minimum of 24 weeks, which is a six-month long program. The curriculum and weekly content target the abusive and unhealthy behaviors by exploring the root causes of intimate partner violence, as well as addressing their own belief system about it."

Participation is primarily ordered through the court system, but they also receive referrals through Department of Probation and Parole, Department of Social Services, the state's attorney's office, as well as self-referrals.

They not only address physical abuse, but psychological abuse as well. Services are grant funded and thus free to the participants.

Sharon Maggio, with the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, said if in immediate danger

call 911. "And if you're unable to call immediately, call as soon as you can."

Then a deputy is dispatched "to interview parties and witnesses, collect evidence, complete lethality assessment, which includes strangulation, which is an actually very high, risk indicator of domestic violence."

She added, "They use it as a tactic to let them know they can kill them anytime they want, that whole power control dynamic."

She said, "The mobile crisis team, an ambulance may be called to the location depending on the circumstances and the severity of injury. Immediate needs will be assessed. Referrals can and will be provided, including how to file a protective order if they feel that is a good option for them."

She said, "They, they can talk to someone just to share. Like, they may not want to press charges yet. They may not want to do a file, a protective order, but they may just want to have someone listen to them, hear what's going on, and share all the resources in the county."

"We encourage anyone to call us," the deputy said. "We want to be there and help them figure out what's best for them, meet them where they are and help with that."

Maggio said, "During Covid, there was definitely a spike in peace orders in Calvert County. And I think that, from reading the allegations, people were at heightened levels of fear, agitation, anger being afraid. People were not as friendly with their neighbors or who they ran into out in the community. As far as protective orders are concerned, there wasn't a huge spike in protective orders in Calvert County. However, in the state's attorney's office, we talked about this too. There was a spike in the severity of the allegations. There was more strangulation, there was more of the physical abuse and severe."

She said statistically, "The most dangerous time for someone is when they leave their abusive partner, and that abusive partner loses the control."

Lisa Marsh, director of the Safe Harbor Shelter, said, "Last quarter alone, Safe Harbor has provided 551 bed nights. We've had 10 mothers, and eight children. And this year we've been pretty much full most of



Director of Community Services Jennifer Moreland

the year." She praised the support of the community for the county's domestic abuse shelter.

Calvert County State's Attorney Bob Harvey said of domestic violence, "It's the second most prevalent type of case we see in Calvert behind alcohol related or drug related impaired driving cases. I'm told we have between 60 and 90 active cases at any given time in our office."

Harvey said, "It's really not just about violence, really the more proper term is domestic abuse because domestic abuse comes in all kinds of forms, economic, psychological, and there's also physical. Now, the state's attorney's office typically doesn't learn about domestic abuse until it escalates to violence."

He noted, "I'm dealing right now with a classic domestic violence murder case that happened in our county about six or seven years ago, down in Lusby where a fellow shot and killed his wife in front of their two-year-old child. That fellow was coming back asking the court to reduce his life imprisonment sentence. And I'm hoping and praying that that doesn't happen."

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CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of September 18 – September 24, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,932 calls for service throughout the community.

Damaged Property: 23-67815

On Sept. 24, 2023, Deputy R. Jones responded to the American Legion Post 274 located at 11820 HG Trueman Road, in Lusby, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised one of the metal poles in front of the establishment had been damaged and broken off. The estimated value of damaged property is \$150.00.

Motor Vehicle Theft: 23-67258

On September 22, 2023, M/DFC Aurich responded to the 3600 block of 7th Street in North Beach, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between 1 a.m. and 7 a.m., an unknown suspect (s) stole the victim's black Harley-Davidson Softail Standard motorcycle. The estimated value of stolen property is \$3,000.00.

Theft: 23-66335

On September 19, 2023, DFC Dymond responded to 130 Hospital Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. Upon arrival, contact was made with two victims who reported both of their wallets and contents inside (credit cards and U.S. currency) had been stolen sometime on Sept. 18 between 8:30 a.m. and 12:03 p.m. Investigation revealed unknown suspect (s) made several fraudulent purchases with the stolen cards. The total cumulative value of the stolen items and charged of both victims is \$4,573.52.

Theft: 23-66293

On September 19, 2023, responded to the 12000 block of Steven Lane in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised his Ring floodlight camera was missing and the wires had been cut. The estimated value of stolen and damaged property is \$300.00.



Dwayne Mathew Dorsey

ARRESTS

On Sept. 20, 2023, DFC N. Buckler initiated a traffic stop in the area of SB Rt. 4 in the area of Cove Point Road in Lusby, on a vehicle for an equipment

violation. Further investigation revealed, a bag of suspected cocaine and a digital scale were located inside the vehicle. The driver, **Dwayne Mathew Dorsey**, 38 of Lexington

Park, was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possess-Not Cannabis and CDS: Possess of Paraphernalia.



Elizabeth Marie Ireton

On September 22, 2023, DFC Wilder responded to the Wawa convenience store located at 305 Market Square Drive in Prince Frederick, for a complaint of a female using the bathroom in public. After reviewing video surveillance and speaking to witnesses, **Elizabeth Marie Ireton**, 41 of no fixed address, was observed urinating in the parking lot of the establishment. Hours earlier, Ireton was located loitering outside of Sakura Express consuming alcoholic beverages. Ireton was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where she was charged with Indecent Exposure, Intoxicated Public Disturbance, and Disorderly Conduct.



Justin Robert Brady

On September 22, 2023, deputies responded to the Wawa located at 305 Market Square Drive in Prince Frederick, for the reported disorderly subjects. Contact was made with **Justin Robert Brady**, 30 of Sunderland, who was heavily intoxicated, laying on the floor of the store, yelling at deputies while disturbing customers inside the establishment. Brady was asked to leave the property and became disorderly and verbally combative. Brady eventually left the store but remained on the property. Hours later deputies responded back to the Wawa for the same disorderly subjects. DFC Crum made contact with Brady asking him to vacate the property to which he refused. Brady was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

Editor's Note: The above arrests are not an indication of guilt or innocence as the cases have not been adjudicated

Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to call the Sheriff's Office at (410) 535-2800 and reference the case number provided. Citizens may remain anonymous thru the 'Submit a Tip' feature on the Calvert County Sheriff's Office mobile app. To download, visit <https://apps.myocv.com/share/a39520678>. Tipsters may also email ccsotips@calvertcountymd.gov

Victim Seeks Suspects in Solomons Hit and Run



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A man who lives in Solomons Island part time says he was the victim of a hit-and-run striking by what he believes to be a sport utility vehicle passing him while he was on his bicycle there Sept. 27.

He has reached out to not only local police but to the public at large with a sign campaign to bring the alleged perpetrators to justice.

"Someone's got to turn them in or they're going to get away with it," said Perry Sharpless, who works as a defense contractor in neighboring St. Mary's County.

The injuries he has sustained, he said, will require surgery, though he said he is expected to make a full recovery.

Sharpless said his recovery period will

keep him out of work for at least a month. According to his account, he was "struck from behind without warning and flung to the asphalt."

"The involved vehicle is a white BMW SUV that is now missing the passenger-side outside mirror cover, which they hit me hard enough with to cause it to break off, but were kind enough to leave behind at the scene as evidence," Sharpless wrote in an e-mail to The County Times. "The area where I was struck is well-lit, and my bike had the requisite flashing red rear-facing light and white headlight, as required by Maryland law.

"When they fled the scene, they headed over the [Gov. Thomas Johnson] Bridge toward St. Mary's County."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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Calvert Community Calendar

To submit your event listing to go in our Community Calendar, please email timescalendar@countytimes.net with the listing details by 12 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication.

Thu, Oct 5

Group Meditation

Solomon's Mission Center
14454 Solomons Island Rd S, Solomons
6:30 p.m.

We gather together to practice mindful movements and meditation, and to discuss practicing mindfulness in daily life. No registration, donations to The Solomons Mission Center gratefully accepted. Everyone is welcome. Our practice is universal and non-sectarian. Sponsored by Southern Maryland Meditation Community. someditationcommunity.org

Sat, Oct 7

Patuxent River Appreciation Day (PRAD)

Calvert Marine Museum
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Museum admission is FREE all day

One of Southern Maryland's longest running festivals celebrates its 45th year. This year's event will feature a weekend's-worth of fun, all in one day. Festivities include toy boat building, live music, boat rides, crafts, art vendors, and more!

Enjoy grabbing a bite to eat from a variety of food vendors on site. Beer and wine will also be available for purchase.

Monster Market

Annemarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Admission to the market area is free

Do you relish all things weird, wild, and wonderful? Do you like quirky, funky, bizarre, and off-beat stuff? Do you love Fall and all things Halloween-related? If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, then this is the market for you! Let's indulge our love of autumn and the utterly monstrous with this over-the-top Monster Market featuring lots of treats inspired by the season. Well-behaved pets on a short leash are wel-

come; rain or shine event; no smoking or vaping. Food and drink will be available. Details: www.annmariegarden.org

Lower Marlboro Freedom Day

Lower Marlboro United Methodist Church
6519 Lower Marlboro Lane, Owings

Lower Marlboro Hall
3911 Lower Marlboro Road, Owings,
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

As the War of 1812 raged into the summer of 1814, British troops sailed up the Patuxent River in a bid to take Washington, D.C. On their way, they stopped at the port of Lower Marlboro in what is now Owings to commandeer supplies and offered freedom to local enslaved men and women in exchange for their service to the British war effort. Fourteen people won their freedom that day, on what we now commemorate as Lower Marlboro Freedom Day.

This is a wonderful opportunity for all ages to enjoy the fall weather while celebrating our local history and heritage. Free Parking.

Festivities include speakers, entertainment, food and exhibits, and walking tours.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources will host a free fishing at the pier; under 16 years old do not require a fishing license; those older than 16 should apply for their license before the event. A valid Maryland fishing or crabbing license is required. 410-535-5327

Open House & Fall Fund Raiser

Pets with Disabilities
635 Clay Hammond Rd, Prince Frederick
Noon-5 p.m.

Once a year the rescue opens its doors to the public to celebrate our mission and thank our supporters and adopters. This is a free fun Fall outdoor & family friendly event. We hope you can join us for a day of food and drink, entertainment, trail walks, raffles and baskets, and our famous Pets with Disabilities merchandise that will be available for purchase. This is a great time to meet our new adoptable dogs and catch up with some old ones!

Open House

Prince Frederick Vol. Fire Dept.
450 Solomons Island Rd S,
Prince Frederick
Noon-3 p.m.

There will be live demonstrations, activities for kids, food, moon bounce and much more! All free to the community.

Thu, Oct 12

Sea Squirts: Otters and Friends

Calvert Marine Museum
10:15 & 11:15 a.m.

Children 18 months to 3 years, accompanied by an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. The cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

Ongoing

Wm. B. Tennison Public Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum
Wed. through Sun., the month of Oct.
2 p.m.

Relax and enjoy a leisurely one-hour cruise on the river aboard the *Wm. B. Tennison*, a log-built bugeye. Capacity allows for 40 guests. If there is a cancellation due to inclement weather, you will be notified by the crew prior to the cruise. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children – infant through 12 years.

Upcoming

9th Annual Craft and Vendor Show

Huntingtown United Methodist Church
4020 Hunting Creek Rd., Huntingtown,
Saturday, October 14

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Come see the wares of our local, talented crafters and vendors. Get a head start on your Holiday shopping. You'll see: hand-made jewelry, painted Christmas decor, knitted and crocheted items, glass art, soaps, oils, handcrafted woodworking, Tastefully Simple, Mary Kay, Tupperware, Origami Owl and much more!

Halloween in the Garden

Annemarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center
Saturday, October 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Advance timed-entry tickets required

It's everyone's favorite Halloween tradition at Annmarie! Join us for a day of Halloween fun and games with more than 50 community booths spread out across the garden with treats and family fun for everyone! Dress up and come enjoy an awesome day of trick-or-treating, a DJ dance party, games, great photo opps, music, and yummy food and drinks! Advance timed-entry tickets required, \$5/person (\$7 at the gate, if not sold out); age 2 & under free; members free; reduced cost tickets for SNAP card holders available. Rain or shine event, no pets, no smoking. Details: www.annmariegarden.org

Annmarie After Hours

Annemarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center
Friday, Oct. 13, 5-7 p.m.

Enjoy extended hours in the garden in celebration of the opening of a new exhibit in the Kay Daugherty Gallery. Both galleries in the Arts Building will be open until 7 p.m., along with the sculpture garden and walking trails. Enjoy live music, tour the new exhibit, take a walk, and appreciate an evening of art and nature. You'll find a cash bar and food truck as well. Admission is \$5/person; members free; reservations are not required, just come. Details: www.annmariegarden.org

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The County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's and Calvert County. The County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies of the newspaper. The County Times does not espouse any political belief or endorse any product or service in its news coverage.

To be considered for publication, articles and letters to the editor submitted must include the writer's full name, address and daytime phone number. Submissions must be delivered by 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication to ensure placement for that week. After that deadline, the County Times will make every attempt possible to publish late content, but cannot guarantee so. Letters may be condensed/edited for clarity, although care is taken to preserve the core of the writer's argument. Copyright in material submitted to the newspaper and accepted for publication remains with the author, but the County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.



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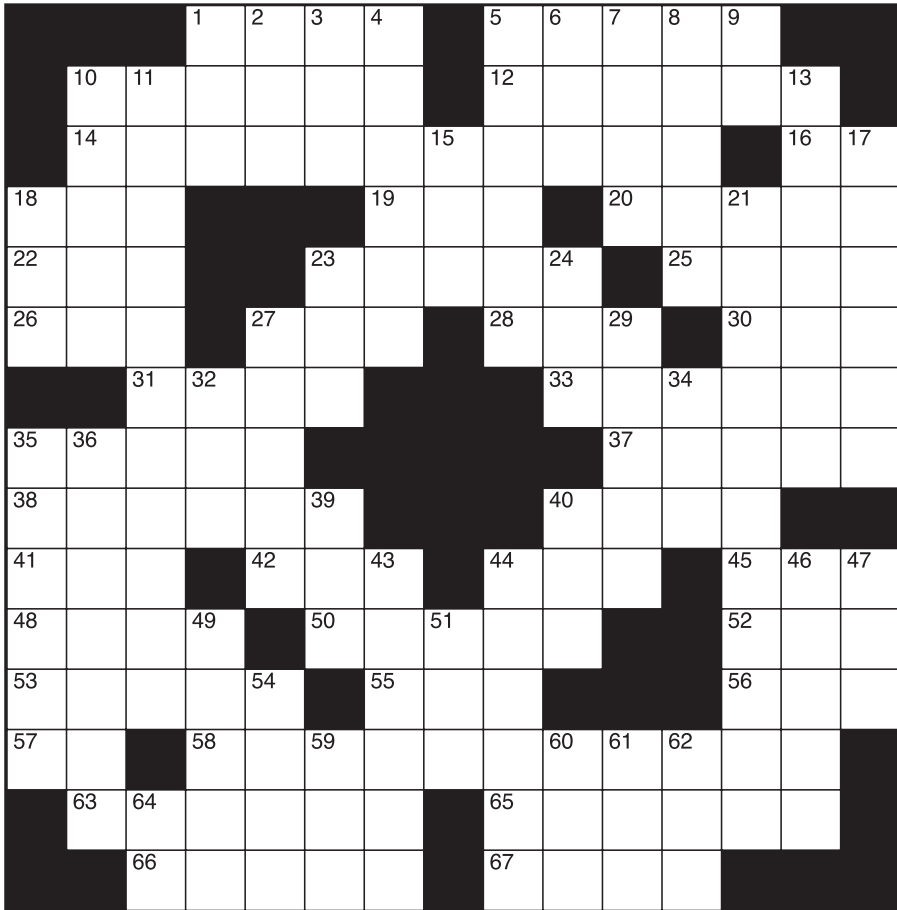
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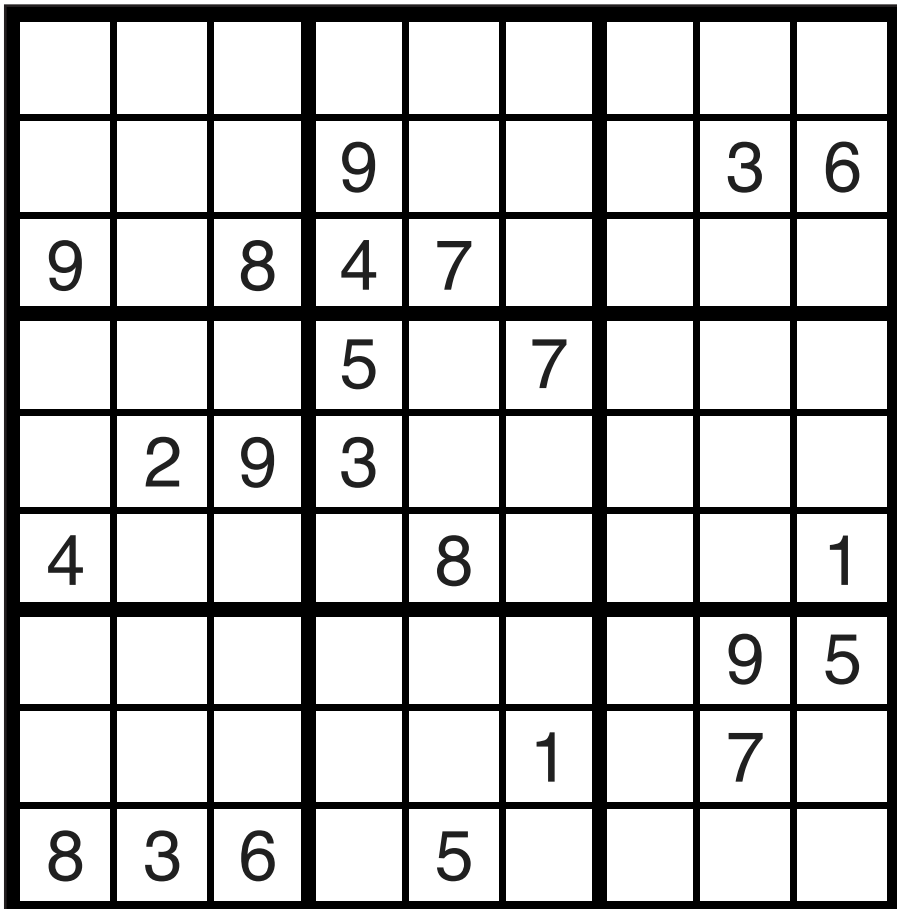


CLUES ACROSS

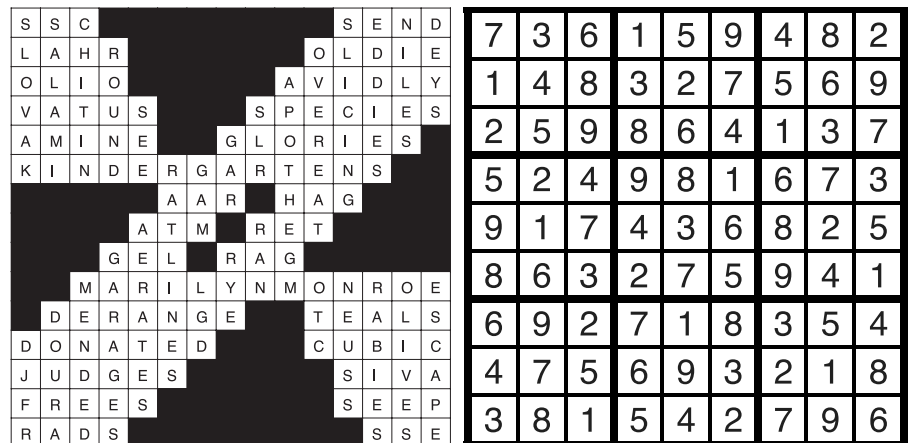
- 1. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 5. Byproduct of fire
- 10. Talked
- 12. Unique skill
- 14. Unembarrassed
- 16. Where teenagers go
- 18. Boxing's GOAT
- 19. Used to anoint
- 20. Reproductive structure found in rust fungi
- 22. Auburn great Newton
- 23. Some are for Christmas
- 25. Dried, split pulses
- 26. Self
- 27. Where to get your mail
- 28. High schoolers' test
- 30. Flightless bird
- 31. Expectorated
- 33. Practice of misrepresenting the truth
- 35. Type of patch
- 37. French river
- 38. Told on
- 40. Hillside
- 41. Peyton's little brother
- 42. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 44. Progressive country musician
- 45. Witness
- 48. Brews
- 50. Yellowish-brown
- 52. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- 53. Mexican agave
- 55. Type of "cast"
- 56. Popular breakfast food
- 57. Atomic #52
- 58. Position north or south of the equator
- 63. Gadget
- 65. Another recording
- 66. Irregular bulges in cell membranes
- 67. Dark brown

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Licensed for Wall Street
- 2. Partner to flow
- 3. A very large body of water
- 4. Accumulate on the surface of
- 5. Central cores of stems
- 6. Angry
- 7. Spanish stew: ___ podrida
- 8. Fastened with a pin
- 9. On your way: ___ route
- 10. Soviet labor camp system
- 11. Enmities
- 13. B complex vitamin
- 15. Go quickly
- 17. Toast
- 18. A team's best pitcher
- 21. Philly culinary specialty
- 23. Small child
- 24. Unhappy
- 27. Trims away
- 29. Full of tears
- 32. Touch softly
- 34. Former OSS
- 35. A person's chest
- 36. Came from behind
- 39. Fall back
- 40. Nellie ___, journalist
- 43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
- 44. Weather
- 46. Sports broadcaster Ian
- 47. Electroencephalograph
- 49. Phenyl salicylate
- 51. Web of Things
- 54. Ship goods as cargo
- 59. The bill in a restaurant
- 60. Young female
- 61. OJ trial judge
- 62. One's grandmother
- 64. West Siberian river



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



St. Mary's Community Calendar

To submit your event listing to go in our Community Calendar, please email timescalendar@countytimes.net with the listing details by 12 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication.

Thu, Oct 5

American Legion Post 221 Meeting

American Legion Post 221
21690 Colton Point Rd., Avenue
8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

American Legion Post 221 invites all active duty personnel and veterans to join us for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00pm. E-mail us at alpost221@aol.com or call 301*481*6625 for more information. Tell them you saw the announcement on the SoMD Internet Calendar.

Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open House

Drayden African American Schoolhouse
18287 Cherryfield Road, Drayden
11 a.m. to 2p.m.

Visit one of the nation's best-preserved, one-room African American schoolhouses the first Saturday of each month from April to October and during Juneteenth weekend. Check out the restored schoolhouse and learn about its rich history and importance to education in St. Mary's County. Staff will be available at the school during this time to answer any questions and provide information.

gravy, spiced applesauce, grits & biscuits. Assorted juices, milk and coffee.

Adults—\$13.00; Children 6 to 12—\$6.00; Children 5 & under are free

Proceeds from this fundraiser are for the Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad to continue to keep our community safe.

For more information call: 301-994-9999

10 a.m. to 1p.m.

Celebrating 100 years of Catholic Education, St. John's School invites you to their Open House Monday, October 9, 2023 from 10:00am—1:00pm. For more information visit sjshollywood.org.

Sat, Oct 7

Annual Fall Yard Sale

7th District VRS Auxiliary
21506 Colton Point Road, Avenue

Saturday Hours – 8 am to 12 pm
Sunday & Weekdays – 9 am to 3 pm
Four buildings filled for shoppers.
Fill a 13-gallon size bag for \$8.00.

Sun, Oct 8

Breakfast—All-You-Can-Eat- 2nd Dist. VFD&RS

Social Hall of 2nd District VFD & RS
45245 Drayden Road, Valley Lee
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Scrambled eggs, home fried potatoes, pancakes, French toast, sausage links, ham, bacon, creamed chipped beef, sausage

Antique Tractor Parade

Town Square, Leonardtown
1 p.m. to 3p.m.

The 13th Annual Sothern Maryland Antique Power Parade will be on Sunday, October 8th from 1-3PM. The parade will take place on the square in Leonardtown. The parade will course through Leonardtown ending with a display of antique power in the town square. For more information or to participate, please call Kevin at 443-975-8364

Mon, Oct 9

St. John's School Open House

St. John's School
43900 Saint John's Rd., Hollywood

Upcoming

COSMIC Symphony presents: A COSMIC Homecoming

Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge
Performing Arts Center
St. Mary's College of Maryland
47855 College Dr, St. Mary's City
Saturday, October 28

Join us for our exciting season opener concert featuring St. Mary's County native and COSMIC alum Julia Henderson, who now performs as a professional cellist in NYC. The concert will feature Dvořák's Cello Concerto along with Copland's Rodeo. We are pleased to present this concert entirely FREE of charge and tickets are not required. Hope to see you there.



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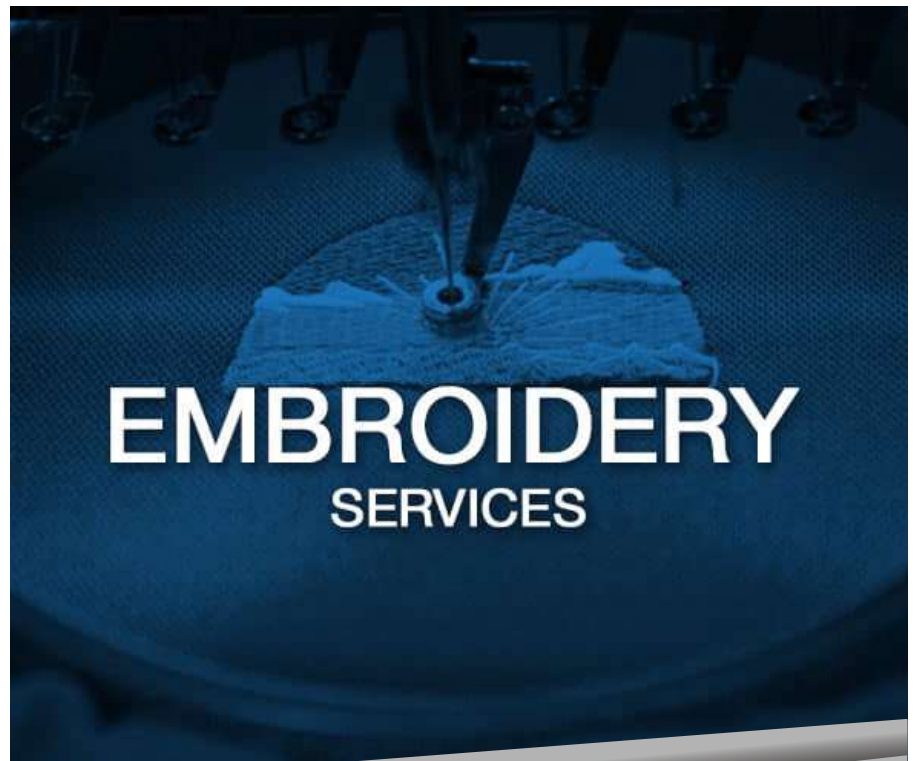
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In Remembrance

Chip Norris, 77



J. Harry Norris III, "Chip", 77, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away on October 2, 2023 at his home. Born on January 25, 1946, he was the son of the late Pat Norris and the late Harry Norris. Chip was the loving husband of Jan Norris, whom he married in St. Aloysius Church, Leonardtown, MD, and who preceded him in death on July 13, 2020. He is survived by his children, Kelly Loveless of Loveville, MD and Kristin Caton of Leonardtown, MD, his siblings Randy Norris of Leonardtown, MD, Danny Norris of Leonardtown, MD, Carol Bean of California, MD, and Chris Norris of Leonardtown, MD, as well as three grandchildren. In addition to his parents and wife, Chip was preceded in death by his and Jan's son, Jay Norris.

Chip was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and graduated from St. Mary's Ryken in 1965. He earned his Associate's degree from Charles County Community College in 1967. Chip was a Real Estate Appraiser.

Chip had a love for life and enjoyed and celebrated all things. His true loves would be his wife, Jan, the town of Leonardtown, and his friends and family. Although Chip had accomplished having a successful career and mayorship of Leonardtown, he was most proud of his beloved Jan being elected as County Treasurer. Chip is responsible for the revitalization of Leonardtown, but also supporting community attractions including the winery and wharf. Chip was PopPop to three grandchildren, Will, Logan, and Olivia. He would light up with sheer joy when any of them entered the room or even spent a few minutes on the phone. Many friends enjoyed the stories shared by Chip. Most of them would seem embellished but actually truthful; some stories would be inappropriate for some audiences. Everyone would leave Chip's company with a smile and a new story to share.

Farewell Chip, Dad, PopPop. You will be missed but never forgotten.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited by Father David Beaubien at 4:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 10:00 AM in the funeral home chapel. Interment will be private.

Contributions may be made to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com.

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Dorothy Raley, 89



Dorothy Russell Raley, 89 of Leonardtown, MD passed away peacefully on October 3, 2023 surrounded by her loving family. Dorothy was born on June 21, 1934 in Loveville, MD to the late Bernard Howard Russell and Mary Elvie Johnson Russell.

Dorothy married the late Floyd Aloysius Raley, Sr., November 26, 1955 in St. Joseph's Catholic Church. She was the mother of Floyd Aloysius "Al" Raley Jr and Joyce Raley Lloyd and her husband, Kenny all of Mechanicsville; her grandchildren Randy Raley and his wife, Paula and Heather Raley; great-granddaughter, Lauren Raley. She was preceded in death by her sisters, Mary Bernadine "Bea" Raley and Elvie Mae "Teeny" Simpson.

She was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County and a graduate of St. Mary's Academy. After graduation, she started her career at Burch Oil Company and then Ridgell Oil Company. She worked at Ridgell Oil until her retirement at the age of 80. While working, she was a St. Mary's County Orphan's Court Judge from 1984-2002.

She enjoyed traveling, especially to Williamsburg with her sisters, painting ceramics and crocheting. Most importantly, Dorothy loved and was loved by her family and friends. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She will be missed deeply and remembered fondly by all.

She was a devoted catholic and attended mass every weekend until her decline in health.

Special thanks to caregivers Vivian, Helen, Dean, Mona, Stacey and Carol. They provided excellent care and went above and beyond to ensure her comfort.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm with prayers recited at 7:30 pm in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 9:30 am in St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Leonardtown, MD with Father David Beaubien officiating. Interment will follow at Queen of Peace Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Randy Raley, Kenny Lloyd, Billy Simpson, Rusty Greenwell, Jeffrey Raley and Rodney Madewell. Honorary pallbearers will be Heather Raley, Larry Greenwell, Wayne Raley and Wade Wood

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice of St. Mary's County, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 22800 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com.

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Randy Bowles, 76



Thomas Randall Bowles "Randy" 76 of Clements, MD passed away on September 28, 2023 at Georgetown University Hospital with his loving family by his side!

He was born on September 18, 1947, in Leonardtown, Md. He was the loving son of the late Susan Alberta Ellis Bowles and John Ignatius Bowles, Sr.

Randy was the loving husband of Karen Marie Gass Bowles, whom he married on May 20, 1972 in Holy Angels Church, Avenue, MD.

Randy is survived by his children Gwendolyn Murphy of Leonardtown, Md, Jason Bowles (Debbie) of Virginia, Sharon Ann Lathroum (Jamie) of Mechanicsville, MD, grandchildren Deanna Delozier (George), Kayla Bowles, Emily and Gracelyn Murphy, Dominic and Anthony Bowles, Austin, Addison and Dustin Lathroum. Great Grandchildren Bryson, Karson and Henry. Siblings Freddie Bowles (Kitty), Sue Huber (Arnold), Tony Bowles (Pat), Catherine Hill, Denise Lundberg (Paul), Brenda Long (TV), Lucy Elkins (Evan), Jerry Bowles (Punkin), Donnie Bowles (Ellen) and sisters in law Mary Edna Bowles and Peggy Bowles. He was preceded in death by his mother and father Susan Alberta Ellis Bowles & John Ignatius Bowles, Sr and siblings Anna Mae Bowles, "Brother" John I. Bowles, Jr, Sharon Ann Bowles, Jean Russell, Jimmy Bowles, Mary Barone and his very special brother-in-law Bobbie Hill.

He was a lifelong St Mary's County res-

ident and attended St Joseph Elementary School and Leonardtown High School! Randy started working at Fenwick Motor Company out of high school. He started his own auto repair and paint shop in Clements in 1972. He was a professional in the automotive field and created custom paint jobs for many clients and customers in the County! He retired from the automotive shop in 1990 and went to work on Capitol Hill in the Plumbing Shop where he retired in 2007. After retirement he worked for eight years at the County Landfill!

He enjoyed racing cars, NASCAR, watching Orioles, Nats and Yankees ball games, taking care of his yard and working on anything automotive related! He enjoyed watching his son-in-law Jamie and his grandson Austin at all their races at Potomac Speedway. He loved spending time with friends and family.

The family will receive friends at the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., 41590 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown, Maryland on Monday, October 9, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers being recited at 7:00 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at Holy Angels Catholic Church, 21340 Coltons Point Rd. Avenue, Maryland on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 10:00 AM. Interment will Follow at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Morganza, Maryland. Serving as pallbearers will be Little Randy Bowles, Wayne Bowles, Robbie Hill, Dominic, Anthony Bowles, Austin and Dustin Lathroum. Honorary pallbearers will be Deanna, Kayla, Emily, Gracelyn and Addison.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com.

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

In Memory of Rose Johnson Emory

Who passed away Oct. 1, 1992

Although our lives' journeys
have bid us to be apart,
I am with you, you are with me,
always in our hearts.



Love,
Dad, Susan & Tracy

FINANCIAL FOCUS

What should you ask a financial advisor?

Managing your finances and investing for your future are important tasks—and they can be challenging. But you don't have to go it alone. Many people benefit from working with a financial advisor, someone who knows their needs and goals and makes appropriate recommendations. If you're considering getting some help, you'll want to ensure a particular financial advisor is right for you, so it's a good idea to ask questions.

Here are some to consider:

- *Have you worked with people like me?* All of us are unique individuals. Yet, you do share certain characteristics with others — age, income, family situation and so on. And you might feel comfortable knowing that a financial advisor has worked with people like you and can readily understand and appreciate your needs and specific goals: college for your children, a certain type of retirement lifestyle, the kind of legacy you'd like to leave and others. The more information you can provide about yourself upfront, the better your chances of finding a good match.
- *Do you have a particular investment philosophy?* Some financial advisors follow a particular investment style, while others might focus on specific investments or categories. There's nothing inherently wrong with these types of approaches, but you might be better served by working with someone who takes a broader view — one that emphasizes helping clients meet their goals over any particular philosophy or strategy.
- *How will you communicate with me?* Open and frequent communication are key to a successful relationship with a financial advisor. So, you'll want to know what you can expect. Will you have annual or semi-annual reviews of your accounts? In between these reviews, can you contact your advisor at any time with questions you may have? How will an advisor notify you to recommend investment moves? Is the financial advisor the individual you'll communicate with, or are other people involved?
- *How do you define success for your clients?* Some investors track their portfolios' performance against that of a specific market index, such as the S&P 500. But these types of benchmarks can be misleading. For one thing, investors should strive for a diversified portfolio of stocks, bonds and other investments, whereas the S&P 500 only tracks the largest U.S. stocks. So, when you talk to potential financial advisors about how they define success for their clients, you may want to look for responses that go beyond numbers and encompass statements such as these: "I'm successful if my clients trust me to do the right things for them. And, most important, I'm successful when I know I've helped my clients reach all their goals."
- *How are you compensated?* Financial advisors are compensated in different ways — some work on commissions, some charge fees, and some combine fees and commissions. There isn't necessarily any best method, from a client's point of view, but you should clearly understand how a potential advisor is compensated before you begin a professional relationship.

These aren't the only questions you might ask a potential financial advisor, but they should give you a good start. When you're trusting someone to help you with your important financial goals, you want to be completely comfortable with that individual — so ask whatever is on your mind.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Contributed by David McDonough

Financial Advisor at Edward Jones

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Free Outdoor 'Play for All Ages' Series at U.S. Colored Troops Center

Families, kids and adults of all ages can enjoy free outdoor activities while visiting the U.S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center in Lexington Park on the second Saturday of October.

These activities encourage visitors to explore nature and the outdoors through curiosity and play. Modeled loosely after "Forest School" learning styles in Denmark and Sweden, the Nature & Forest Play for All Ages Series encourages discovering nature through hands-on, tactile, "no right or wrong way to play" experiences. Age is not a factor; adults need to connect with nature in relaxing, simple ways, just as much as children do.

All are welcome to visit the Interpretive Center on October 14, 2023, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. for a fun Halloween themed activity, "Ghost Leaf Skeleton Rubbings".

Please call ahead to register; registration is not required but encouraged to ensure we have enough participant materials. Admission is free. Play is rain or shine if there are no safety concerns (heat advisory, heavy winds, lightning, etc.).

The U.S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center is in the Lexington Manor Passive Park at 21675 S. Coral Drive in Lexington Park. For more information, call Piney Point Lighthouse Museum at 301-994-1471 or visit Facebook.com/USCTCenter.

HSMC Announces Community Book Club

Historic St. Mary's City is excited to announce the creation of a new book club, "A Farthing for Your Thoughts." The club will meet inside The Shop at Farthing's Ordinary on the second Wednesday of each month from 2 - 3:30 p.m. beginning November 15. Anyone interested in joining the club please contact Iris Ford by emailing icford@smcm.edu.

There will be an informational meeting on Wednesday, October 11 from 2 - 3 p.m., book ideas will be welcome!

Between the pages of a book at Historic St. Mary's City is a wonderful place to be: lose yourself, find yourself, and go places!

The Shop at Farthing's Ordinary is located at 47414 Old State House Road, St. Mary's City, Maryland 20686.



Come out to historic Leonardtown, MD to see antique power of yesteryear in parade and on display in Town Center! Kids of all ages will be returned to a time when these fine machines worked the fields and hauled freight on the roads creating our beautiful Southern Maryland landscape! **All proceeds will benefit Christmas in April St. Mary's County, Inc.**

The parade will course through Leonardtown ending with a display of antique power in Town Square. For more information or if you would like to participate with your own tractor or truck, call the numbers listed below. We'll see you there!

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for more information

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1.75L Tito's Vodka



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Social Services Chief's Memory Honored

On September 26th, family, friends and colleagues of Ella May Russell gathered at the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services to re-dedicate the Russell Conference room. During the rededication ceremony a portrait of Mrs. Russell, donated by the family, was unveiled. Mrs. Russell worked for the citizens of St. Mary's County as both a social worker and as director for 53 years and left an indelible legacy on the agency at both the state and local levels. The dedication ceremony was spearheaded by the current director, Alexis Zoss and was filled with stories of Mrs. Russell's time in the office. She was remembered for her dogged determina-



tion to get services to her clients and her unwillingness of taking "no" as answer. Mrs. Russell passed away on June 26, 2023.

Registration Now Open for Youth Basketball

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Recreation & Parks (R&P) welcomes youth to participate in the 2023-24 Recreational Basketball season.

Registration opens Monday, October 2, 2023, for grades 1-10 to participate in league play throughout the county. Registration will be available through November 3, 2023, or until filled. Certain grade levels will fill quickly, so do not delay in registering your child.

League participation includes weekly practice and games on Saturdays at designated locations. The 9th - 10th grade league, however, will play games on Sundays at Leonardtown High School. For specific details related to team selection and league expectations, please visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/sports to review the parent handbook.

To register, please visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/recreate and click Online Registration. Please be sure to select the appropriate age group and preferred location. Additional details such as practice times and games times will be distributed in November once teams are formed.

For more information, please contact Recreation & Parks at webtrac@stmaryscountymd.gov or by calling (301) 475-4200 ext. 1800.

Stay up to date with R&P information by following them at [Facebook.com/stmarysmdrecreation](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmdrecreation) or on Instagram @stmarysrecandparks.

St. Mary's Couple Manifests \$50,000 Powerball Prize

A St. Mary's County couple said they used the power of manifestation to win a \$50,000 Powerball prize.

"Powellball" pair made U-turn to purchase quick-pick ticket

A couple from St. Mary's County dubbed themselves "Powellball" to share their story on how everything aligned for a \$50,000 Powerball win in the Sept. 2 drawing.

The loyal players were at New Market Service Center at 29233 Three Notch Road in Mechanicsville to make a weekly purchase that typically includes a Powerball ticket. When the couple left the St. Mary's County store, they realized they had forgotten to purchase a ticket.

Instead of skipping the drawing that night, and giving up their chance at winning a \$420 million jackpot, the wife told her husband to go back to the store. "She told me to make that U-turn," the grateful husband said with a grin.

The "Powellball" team purchased a \$10 ticket with five lines of numbers. The couple pointed out that this was significant because the third-tier prize-winning line was on the fifth and final line of the ticket.


"If we would have bought a \$6, \$8 ticket or anything less, we wouldn't have gotten that last line," the wife explained.



The next day, they were at a restaurant and the wife scanned the ticket for a win using the Lottery app on her phone. She received the message that every Lottery player hopes for alerting her to a \$50,000 prize. The wife recalls that she started to cry with excitement.

"Mrs. Powellball" said she has a lucky alligator tooth that she wears as a necklace and believes in the power of manifesting wins, which has led to small prizes in the past. "I try to manifest a win all the time, but even this win took me by surprise," said the 48-year-old.

The "Powellball" couple own a small business. They plan to use the prize to pay bills and will invest some of the funds into their business. They were one of three \$50,000 Maryland winners in the Sept. 2 drawing. There were also winners from Harford County and Hyattsville.



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To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or view us on our website at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center>



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Honeymoon Planning Pointers

Planning a wedding is a tall task, so it's no wonder why so many couples look forward to their honeymoons. After months of planning and then saying "I Do" in front of family and friends, couples have earned a little R&R.

With so much already on engaged couples' plates, it's easy to overlook honeymoon planning. But finding time to plan a honeymoon can ensure the trip is one couples will cherish for the rest of their lives. The following planning pointers can help the trip go smoothly.

- Pick a passport-friendly destination. When it comes to honeymoons, couples' options run the gamut from domestic locales to faraway destinations on the other side of the world. That suggests couples can pick anywhere within their budgets and simply book a trip. However, that's not necessarily true. According to the U.S. State Department, many countries require that travelers have six months of validity remaining on their passports before they will issue a visa permitting them to enter. So couples should look at their passports to determine how long it is until the document expires. If the document expires within six months of their passport expiring, couples may not be able to enter the country they hope to visit. In such instances, couples should ensure they leave enough time to renew and receive their passports.



- Utilize a travel agency. Contrary to popular belief, travel agencies are still around and remain useful resources, especially for travelers visiting a destination for the first time. Many honeymooners fit that bill, so they can benefit much from working with a

travel agency. Couples tasked with planning a wedding already have a lot on their plate, so letting a travel agency take care of the honeymoon planning can ensure a memorable trip without requiring couples to do any legwork.

- Purchase travel insurance. The need

for travel insurance has never been more apparent than in the last few years. Since the pandemic began, air travel has been a somewhat risky proposition. According to Flightaware, the first six months of 2022 featured more domestic flight cancellations in the United States than the entire 2021 calendar year combined. International travel could prove an even riskier proposition. Though the potential for cancellation should not deter couples from traveling by air for their honeymoons, the sheer volume of cancellations underscores the importance of purchasing travel insurance. Before purchasing a travel insurance policy, couples are urged to read it in its entirety to ensure it provides the protection they're seeking.

- Plan early. With so much other work to do involving a wedding, couples can be excused for putting a honeymoon on the back-burner. But planning early can make the trip much more enjoyable. The benefits to planning early include more flights to choose from, a wider selection of rooms/lodging options at your destination, and more time to budget for the trip.

Honeymoon planning can be made simpler with a few simple strategies that also can ensure couples enjoy the trip of their dreams.

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How to Pick Your Perfect Wedding Dress



Planning a wedding requires making many different decisions. The choice of wedding attire is among the most crucial decisions that couples must make. Whether the wedding is traditional or customized to suit couples' personalities, brides and grooms want to look their best when they say, "I do."

Many brides-to-be spend a significant amount of time looking for their ideal wedding dresses. What defines the right gown depends on personal preference and is unique to the person doing the search. For example, a dress that sets a fairy tale scene for one bride may not necessarily align with the tastes of another. According to Bridal Atelier, the average bride-to-be tries on try three to seven dresses before finding the right one. The following tips can help those shopping for dresses find a look that makes their big day even more special.

1. Don't get hung up on perfection.

Many brides get caught up as they search for the one dress they consider perfect. No dress is likely to check every box. Getting hung up on a desire to find a dress that has it all may make it hard to see the beauty in other dresses. Remember, with the talents of an experienced tailor or seamstress, most dresses can be tweaked to suit your vision of the ideal gown.

2. Consider the season. Getting married during the hazy and humid days of summer is an entirely different experience than tying the knot during the heart of winter. The fabric of the wedding dress should complement the season, whether it's lightweight and breezy for a warm day, or more sub-

stantial and cozy when darting to the ceremony in snowfall.

3. Flatter your figure. Chances are brides-to-be know which cuts and styles are most flattering. Mimic those style choices in the wedding dress. If you want to take focus off of full hips, choose a basque or asymmetrical waistline. Gowns with substantial straps or higher necklines may be better if you have a larger chest. Sheath and mermaid style gowns are options if you are confident with your figure and want to show off your curves.

4. Try a bit of this and that. Don't go into a wedding dress appointment with firm parameters. Although you may have a ball gown style in mind, after trying on other options something with a less voluminous silhouette may actually catch your eye. Many brides also automatically defer to strapless gowns, when various straps and sleeves can be very appealing.

5. Arrive with a firm budget. Weddings can be costly. It's important to set a budget for the wedding dress just as you will with other expenses. There are plenty of dress designers across a wide spectrum of price points. A willingness to consider and ultimately purchase a less costly dress can help you stay on budget.

Browsing through magazines and looking online can provide wedding dress inspiration as well. Also, when in doubt, defer to the experts at bridal shops who have experience choosing dresses that brides are inclined to love.

7 Ways to Incorporate Your Personality Into Your Wedding

Weddings present an opportunity to embrace time-honored traditions. However, couples can be as tradition-minded or as unique in their wedding details as they desire. There's certainly room to let personalities shine through during both the ceremony and the reception.

Increasingly couples are seeking ways to set their celebrations apart from the scores that came before them. While one may not want to banish all customs, there are several ways for couples to inject their own personalities into the proceedings. Here are seven ways to inject some personality into a wedding.

1. Have custom-designed rings made.

Couples can work with jewelers to have rings made to their specifications rather than buying only what is available in the cases. Furthermore, the rings do not have to be matching sets. A couple can select ring styles that complement one another but may be slightly different in design.

2. Cut out the cake. Many couples just aren't fans of traditional sponge cake with buttercream or fondant overlay, so why have that expensive, multi-tiered confectionary creation at the wedding? Instead, serve a more popular dessert. Dessert artists can whip up many impressive options and present them in dramatic (or cake-like) fash-



ion. What about a tower of decadent brownies or a stack of fruit-and-cream-filled crêpes?

3. Write the vows. Vows present an excellent way for couples to let their personalities shine through. Couples can showcase humor, compassion, quirks, and more with the messages they share

with one another.

4. Customize table numbering. Seating cards traditionally guide guests to numbered tables around the reception hall. There is no rule that the tables have to be organized by numbers, however. Those who like movies can name the tables by movie titles. A cou-

ple that loves to travel can make the tables destinations around the world. Keep in mind the catering staff may ask that numbers also accompany the alternative system for ease of serving dinners and keeping orders straight.

5. Make a grand entrance. Couples need not feel beholden to taking a limousine to and from their weddings. Fans of the movie "Batman" can rent a Batmobile replica. Those who couldn't get enough of "Breaking Bad" may want to roll up in an RV. There's also the option of a horse-drawn carriage or a sports car.

6. Serve custom cocktails. Traditional drinks can be given custom names that pertain to details of the couple's lives or how they met. If someone is a microbrewer or makes his or her own wine, these boutique beverages also can be served.

7. Create a monogram. Use the monogram on save-the-dates, invitations, the home page of a wedding website, the ceremony program, and even on cocktail napkins at the reception. The continuity will help set the tone for the wedding.

Couples can allow their creativity and personality to shine through on their wedding day.

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How to Choose a Wedding Officiant

Receptions may get their fair share of attention, but the ceremony is the true centerpiece of a wedding. This is the part of the day when the couple will exchange vows and pledge their love and devotion to one another. It's also the time when the wedding license is signed and the union becomes official.

An officiant is an essential part of any wedding. This person is responsible for leading the ceremony and ensuring that all requirements are met so that the marriage is legal. He or she will guide the exchange of vows and helps set the tone of the wedding.

Officiants vary depending on the ceremony, including religious, non-denominational or even family or friend. Since the officiant's role is so significant, it is important to give careful consideration to potential officiants before making a final decision.

Know the rules governing your ceremony location

If you will be having a religious ceremony in a house of worship, there may be some restrictions regarding who can officiate the wedding. Traditionally, a priest/minister, rabbi or imam must preside over a ceremony in a house of worship. Even though there are some limitations, you may be able to choose the religious leader with whom you are friendly or whose sermons speak to you.

Know what you want

Some officiants may not have formal training or lots of experience officiating weddings, particularly if couples ask a friend or family member to do the honor. Leaving it entirely up to the person may not be the wisest choice, as you may be surprised by what the officiant says. It's best to give the officiant a list of guidelines to see if the person will meld with your vision. When interviewing officiants, note what's most important to you. It also can help if couples try to determine if an officiant's sense of humor aligns with their own.

Check for skills

Professional officiants treat this as a business and have amassed skills throughout the years. They likely will have websites and reviews that you can read through. Consider attending an upcoming wedding to see how a particular officiant performs on the big day.

When selecting an amateur, know that an officiant should have public speaking skills and be able to relate to the audience. Someone who is shy or stumbles over words might not be the right person to put in front of guests.

Officiants feature prominently in a wedding. Choosing the right person to perform this important function is a big decision that requires careful consideration.

Planning an Interfaith Wedding

Love knows no boundaries. Couples about to tie the knot are drawn to each other regardless of cultural differences, geographic proximity, age, or religious beliefs.

Wedding planning can be both exciting and overwhelming. There are many decisions to be made and a vast amount of coordination required when planning a wedding, and couples from different religious backgrounds may find they have some additional responsibilities.

The good news is that interfaith couples are not alone nor treading new waters. In a comprehensive study released in 2015, the Pew Research Center found interfaith marriages have increased in recent decades. Couples married before 1960 were predominantly (81 percent) from the same religious group. However, that has been in steady decline. Thirty-nine percent of couples who tied the knot after 2010 did so in interfaith marriages. Furthermore, nearly half of unmarried couples living with someone else are interfaith couples.

When navigating an interfaith wedding, these suggestions can make the planning go more smoothly.

- Delegate tasks to loved ones. Show family they are loved by delegating tasks that help them feel important rather than isolated. Explain certain customs of the other faith and

involve them in the incorporation of these traditions, whether it is through creating favors or helping to pick out reception decor.

- Pick key rituals. In some instances, marrying someone from another faith means that the marriage will not officially be recognized by the religious institutions of that faith. A Roman Catholic who is marrying a Hindu may not be able to have the ceremony in a Roman Catholic church, for example. However, there are ways to impart elements of rituals that would take place during religious ceremonies, such as reading specific Biblical passages or participating in the Haldi ceremony prior to the wedding day.
- Ask for translations. When interfaith weddings include different languages, it can be helpful to ask the officiant or officiants to translate for guests who may be unfamiliar. Also, think about including a list of which rituals may be included during the ceremony and their meanings in a printed program, so all guests can grasp their significance.

Interfaith weddings require negotiation, patience and a little extra planning. But the end result is a beautiful ceremony and a happy couple.

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Time-Honored Wedding Traditions

Weddings are special events that celebrate two individuals' love for one another. Weddings bring together friends and family to witness couples share vows and devote their lives to each other.

Wedding guests recognize that certain components are commonplace in ceremonies and receptions. Perhaps you were once a ring bearer or caught the bouquet? There's a rich history behind the traditions that feature prominently at many weddings. Here's a look at traditions past and present and the meaning behind these customs.

Marriage

The custom of marriage can be traced back thousands of years to when hunters and gatherers started coming together to form societies and farm land. In order to ensure the success of communities, couplings were developed to produce offspring and maintain households.

Tie the knot

Getting married is sometimes referred to as "tying the knot." This stems from the custom of "handfasting," which is a common practice among various cultures around the world, and notably in ancient Rome. The bride and groom's hands are tied together for the duration of the ceremony, not to be released until the wedding is made official. This isn't something you see too often at modern weddings, but can be something unique couples may want to consider.



Bridal bouquet

A bouquet of beautiful flowers is held by the bride on her wedding day. Roses, orchids, peonies, and other fragrant blooms are often included, but in ancient times brides' bouquets were likely made of herbs. According to the resource Minted Weddings, these aromatic herbs were used to ward off evil spirits.

Veil

Evil spirits also were the basis for the wearing of bridal veils, as they were utilized to hide brides from these miscreants. Veils now are more style than substance.

Bridesmaids

In ancient Rome, bridesmaids were tasked with protecting the bride. They wore

the same dresses as the bride to confuse evil spirits from finding the soon-to-be-betrothed and cursing her. Today's bridesmaids are less decoy and more helper. They may wear similar dresses to the bride and one another, but they aren't trying to fool any spirits.

Tossing rice

Rice and grains were long regarded as signs of prosperity and fertility, according to the gifting company Personal Creations. Therefore, couples were showered with rice to ensure their good fortune. Consumption of uncooked rice has been proven to be detrimental to some wildlife, so rice has now been widely replaced with bubbles or birdseed.

Cutting the cake

At the reception, many couples link hands and make the first cut in their wedding cakes. Wedding Wire says it's a tradition that around 80 percent of wedding couples partake in. It is believed this tradition symbolizes the couple's first official task performed together, and marks the promise to support and take care of one another throughout the marriage. However, in the past, brides were responsible for cutting the wedding cake alone and distributed slices to guests to aid in fertility, according to BakingNook.com.

Weddings are full of traditions with interesting histories.



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SoMD
Weddings
FALL 2023

Alan and Shanice Johnson's wedding at the Olde Breton Inn
Photo credit: Carol Davis Photography—Your Journey Studios

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Saturday, October 7

7:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Choose from a variety of fitness classes with SPICE Studio, including yoga, barre, and strength classes. www.facebook.com/somdspicestudio

8 a.m. - 9 a.m. rootCamp at root SUP & Fitness. www.facebook.com/rootsupfitness

9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Zumba Fitness Around Town under the pavilion at Port of Leonardtown Park. www.facebook.com/ZumbaFitnessAroundTown

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Make and Take Halloween Workshop at Board & Brush. www.facebook.com/boardandbrushleonardtownmd

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center. www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum

11 a.m. Bruderfest 2023 at Brudergarten - Parade in Leonardtown Square, axe throwing competition at Viking Axe Throwing, Weiner Dog Races, live music featuring Fresh Pint and more! www.facebook.com/brudergarten

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. "October's Changing Colors" - Member Show at North End Gallery. www.facebook.com/North.End.Gallery.Leonardtown

11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Color & Light Art Show at St. Mary's County Art's Council. www.facebook.com/smcartsCouncil

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. "The Great Pumpkin" Workshop at Wine & Design. www.facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Kid's Open Studio Drop-in - Clay (5 & up) at The Yellow Line Art Studio. www.facebook.com/theyellowline.co

3 p.m. Knowledge Boxing at The Rex Theatre - Doors open at 2 p.m., first fight begins at 3 p.m. www.facebook.com/therexleonardtown

4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Kid's Open Studio Drop-in - Acrylic Paint (5 & up) at The Yellow Line Art Studio. www.facebook.com/theyellowline.co

2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Live music at Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring David Sparrow and food provided by Jamaican Grill. www.facebook.com/portoftownwine

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. "Rescue Angels Fundraiser" Workshop at Wine & Design. www.facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

Sunday, October 8

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Evolve Yoga at Leonardtown Wharf. www.facebook.com/evolveyogawellness

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Make and Take Halloween Workshop at Board & Brush. www.facebook.com/boardandbrushleonardtownmd

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center. www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum

11 a.m. Free Pool on Sunday at Action Lounge and Billiards. www.facebook.com/ActionLounge

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. "October's Changing Colors" - Member Show at North End Gallery. www.facebook.com/North.End.Gallery.Leonardtown

1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Tractor Parade in Leonardtown Square.

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Draw/Paint/Sculpt on Sundays at The Yellow Line Art Studio. www.facebook.com/theyellowline.co

2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Live music at Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Work in Progress (WIP) and food provided by El Coqui. www.facebook.com/portoftownwine

2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Family Skate at Leonard Hall Recreation Center. www.facebook.com/LeonardHallRecCenter

4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Illustration Class on Sundays at The Yellow Line. www.facebook.com/theyellowline.co

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. "MD Flag on Rowboat" Workshop at Wine & Design. www.facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

The information included here is accurate at the time of printing, and is subject to change. Please visit the event page for current information.



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October 6 - October 22, 2023

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Friday, October 6

5:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Choose from a variety of fitness classes from root SUP and Fitness including Flow, rootCamp, Spin, Aerial Yoga. www.facebook.com/rootsupfitness

6 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Choose from a variety of fitness classes with SPICE Studio, including barre and high low fitness, and Pilates. www.facebook.com/somdspicestudio

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Brunch at Antoinette's Garden. www.facebook.com/AntoinettesGarden

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center. www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum

11 a.m. 2023 Leonardtown Square Fall Bar Crawl. www.facebook.com/events/848641513233239

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. "October's Changing Colors"- Member Art Show at North End Gallery. www.facebook.com/North.End.Gallery.Leonardtown

11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Color & Light Art Gallery Show at St. Mary's County Art's Council. www.facebook.com/smcartsCouncil

12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Adult Art Club at The Yellow Line Art Studio. www.facebook.com/theyellowline.co

5 p.m. - 7 p.m. First Friday art activities in LTown Alley including Interactive Mural Art Project with Ash Scherer, Face Paintings and Balloon Art with Miss Doreen. www.visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownae

5 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. First Friday Audience Participation Drum Circle hosted by the SoMar Drummers from on the St. Mary's County Art's Council Lawn. www.facebook.com/smcartsCouncil

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Color & Light Society Art Show Opening Reception from at the St. Mary's County Arts Council. www.facebook.com/smcartsCouncil

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Meet acoustic performers Lost in Clovers at St. Mary's County Art's Council. www.facebook.com/smcartsCouncil

5:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. First Friday Drumline Performances hosted by the SoMar Drummers on the St. Mary's County Art's Council Lawn. www.facebook.com/smcartsCouncil

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Live music at Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring WildGood Band and food provided by Heidi Eats & Sage Treats www.facebook.com/portoftownwine

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. First Friday music in the Square featuring Funkzilla. www.visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownae

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. First Friday Scratch Art Project at The Yellow Line Art Studio. www.facebook.com/theyellowline.co



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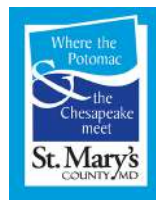
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Lexington Park Man Sentenced to Prison for Manslaughter

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that Matthew Mark Mazza, 28, of Lexington Park, was sentenced to the maximum penalty of ten years in prison for the felony manslaughter by motor vehicle that tragically took the life of an 18-year-old victim.

On July 9, 2022, at approximately 3:35 am, deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to a motor vehicle collision. Preliminary investigation determined that a 2012 Chevrolet Silverado, operated by Mr. Mazza, was traveling on Willows Road when it struck the rear end of a 2015 Ford Focus, operated by Jamari Tyrese Duckett, age 18 of Great Mills, Maryland. Mr. Duckett was transported to an area hospital in critical condition and succumbed to his injuries on Sunday, July 10, 2022.

Evidence showed that seconds before the crash, Mr. Mazza was driving at speeds between 76 MPH and 91 MPH in a 40 MPH zone. A blood test proved Mr. Mazza's blood alcohol concentration level was 0.13 grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood. The legal limit is 0.08 grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood.

"While my office fought for and received the maximum penalty allowable by law, justice demands more. When drunk driving at extreme speeds steals the life of a young man, ten years is never enough. I will not stop until the penalty for this crime accounts for its devastation. With the support of Jamari's family, I will be partnering with Senator Jack Bailey and Delegate Brian



Matthew Mark Mazza

Crosby to change this law to increase the maximum penalty," said State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling.

At the sentencing hearing, the State requested Mr. Mazza be sentenced to the maximum penalty of ten years in prison. The Maryland Sentencing Guidelines called for a sentence between three months and four years. The Court imposed ten years, which is the maximum sentence allowable by law.

Assistant State's Attorney Joseph Boyd prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County. Corporal Brandon For of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator.

The Honorable Amy D. Lorenzini presided over the case.

Man Sentenced for Assault of Child, Mother in Dameron

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that Delonte Rivens, 38, of District Heights was sentenced to 35 years in the Division of Corrections, with 15 years of active incarceration, for a domestic violence assault.

On January 27, 2023, at 2:18 AM, officers from both the Maryland State Police and St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence in Dameron, Maryland for the report of an assault. Officers determined Mr. Rivens assaulted his girlfriend and subsequently utilized a knife to assault her child, who suffered a deep laceration to his hand and was bleeding profusely.

Mr. Rivens was sentenced as follows:

- Felony first degree assault: 25 years, with ten years to be served in prison.
- Second degree assault: ten years, with five years to be served in prison, running consecutive to the felony first degree assault charge.

Trooper John Engleman was the lead investigator for the Maryland State Police. Deputy Toni Hunsinger of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office diligently and skillfully ren-



Delonte Rivens

dered aid to the child prior to the arrival of emergency medical services professionals.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Donna C. Pettersen, Chief of the Domestic Violence Unit, prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

The Honorable Michael J. Stamm presided over the case.

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Delegation, Commissioners Meet on Legislative Proposals

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County brought three legislative proposals before the county delegation to the General Assembly this week in the hopes that the three delegates and one senator would support them and push them forward in Annapolis.

Del. Todd Morgan (R-District 29C), delegation chair, said the quartet of state legislators would consider them all in preparation for what he predicted would be a "rip roaring" session to start in early January.

The first proposal came from Commissioner Eric Colvin and would require state owned nursing homes to inform local governments of any reports of deficiencies or enforcement actions against them.

This mirrors an emergency bill that passed the previous General Assembly to redress the revelation of deficient care — and even abuse and neglect — at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.

That new requires notifying the governor and other state agencies; Colvin's bill would put the county government on that list.

The commissioner board has already voted unanimously to support the measure. "Frequently local government is able to respond a little bit quicker than the state in the event of some severe situation that required a response immediately," Colvin explained at the Oct. 3 joint meeting in Leonardtown. "We might be able to bring some resources to bear before you [the state] could bring resources to bear."

Del. Matt Morgan (R-Dist. 29A) thanked Colvin for the proposal.

"I see no reason why you shouldn't be notified of that, frankly the public should be notified," Matt Morgan said. "That was a bad situation that happened at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home; the state needs to do better."

Del. Brian Crosby (D-Dist. 29B) said local jurisdictions were not included in the first bill because of its extremely late introduction into the legislature; rules and procedures complicated matters, he said.

"If there had been an amendment that would have killed it," Crosby said.

The second proposal would create a beer and wine license class for non-profit, local theater companies; the bill was requested by Robin Finnacom, executive director of the St. Mary's County Community Development Corporation in support of the Newtown Players troupe.

The bill would create a new class of liquor license in St. Mary's County only.

Under current rules the Newtown Players have to get a permit to serve alcohol each time



Delegate Matt Morgan

they so desire for a given event, explained Assistant County Attorney John Houser.

The new bill, which has the support of the local alcohol beverage board, would give them an annual permit, Houser said.

The third proposal, from David Dent of the St. Mary's County Licensed Beverage Association, would create a permit for beer, wine and liquor tastings.

Matt Morgan proffered the idea of requiring the local school system to post a data "dash board" on line to include not only performance reports of students but the number of suspensions and criminal complaints against students.

"A lot of these problems have been dumped on the school systems," he said regarding the results of recent reforms at the state level that do not allow the arrest or even interrogation of young people under the age of 18.

"It's another transparency reporting bill," Morgan said, adding that parents could use the information to decide whether to send their children to public school or seek alternatives.

"My only concern is that with more mandates being pushed down on our school systems, like [the] Kerwin [Commission funding mandates]," said Colvin. "But if you can get this through your delegation, we can work with the commissioners on it."

Matt Morgan also proposed a bill that would allow home schooled students to take part in extracurricular activities at their locally zoned public schools.

"I think there's a big difference between curricula that is taught in the schools and extracurricular activities," he said. "Other states have figured this out."

"We have tried to push this as a state level bill and it's always voted down."

Morgan said the bill would run afoul of the "iron grip" the state teachers union had on the education system but should still be pursued to provide school choice options.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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Sheriff's Survey Reveals Citizens' Top Crime Worries

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

When it comes to crime in St. Mary's County gun violence, drugs and burglaries to vehicles are all foremost in the minds of residents, the results of a recently released sheriff's office survey show, but there is one concern that eclipses the others.

Traffic problems, such as speeding and distracted or aggressive driving, are the most pressing problem to a quality life here, the survey results show.

There were 1,288 residents who answered the sheriff's office survey, which was available online for several months.

A full 40 percent of respondents said the sheriff's office was doing enough to quell traffic problems, while 50 percent said it was not doing enough.

A little less than 10 percent said they were unsure.

"Traffic enforcement in [St. Mary's County] is horrible," one respondent said. "You seldom see anyone pulled over for

violations. Any officer could make dozens of arrest a day just for speeding in school zones."

An overwhelming number of respondents supported putting cameras in school zones to quell speeders; this is one of Sheriff Steve Hall's stated goals in his first term in office.

About 47 percent of respondents said the sheriff's office did an overall effective job of keeping the county safe but 27 percent said it did not; 25 percent said they were unsure.

Almost 70 percent of respondents believed that the agency treats all citizens equitably, though 11 percent do not.

One-fifth of respondents said they did not know whether deputies were evenhanded with residents in all their dealings, the survey showed.

Almost two-thirds of respondents were female, the remainder were male, the survey showed.

A little over 83 percent were white, just six percent were African American.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Float Will Honor Veterans Past and Present

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

In Aug. of 2010 U.S. Army SPC Matthew George was killed in Afghanistan while serving with the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

His aunt and uncle, Lynn and Earl Lumpkins, farmers and livestock raisers in Leonardtown, have honored his memory since then and have come up with a way for everyone in St. Mary's to honor their veterans, whether passed on or still living.

"He was my youngest sister's youngest boy," Earl Lumpkins said. "He was supposed to come home in about a month but he drove over an IED [improvised explosive device]."

When it detonated, Lynn said, their nephew's friends were in the vehicle with him.

"It killed all four of them," she said.

They are working to build a float with a recognition wall to display in the upcoming Leonardtown Veterans' Day Parade on Nov. 11 that has personalized posters of veterans, to include their photograph with name, service branch, dates of service.

Working in conjunction with The Printing Press, Inc. in Leonardtown and the Veterans Day Parade Committee, the Lumpkins want to make sure families can have their veterans personally honored.

"We need to respect and honor our veterans and service personnel," Earl Lumpkins said. "That's why I call the wall we're building 'memory and honor.'"

The memorial wall, soon to be under



Earl Lumpkins remembers his nephew

construction, will feature veterans no matter where they are from.

"I don't care where they're from," Earl Lumpkins said. "They didn't do what they did just for St. Mary's County they did it for the whole country."

In remembering her nephew, Lynn Lumpkins said he would take his pay and divide it amongst his squad mates when he heard their families back home were in need.

Her nephew was not married.

"He felt bad because they were saying they didn't have enough," she said.

For more information on placing veterans on the commemoration wall visit <https://printingpressinc.com/>

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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Richard Myers, richard@seekingshelter.com

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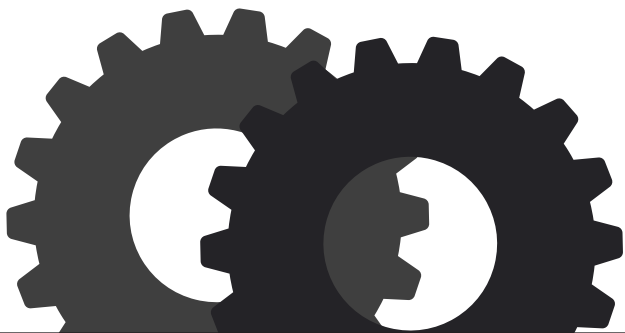
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Norris

Continued from page 7

for business and economic growth rather than a dispenser of "red tape."

His work, along with that of the town council, helped to bring about a kind of renaissance in Leonardtown, especially when businesses like Café Des Artistes, a French restaurant, opened on the town square.

This kind of local economic victory helped to bring interest back to the downtown and reinvigorated interest in it as a dinner and boutique shopping destination.

But, McKay said, it was difficult to decide just which of his accomplishments was his greatest because there were so many.

When the state pulled out of a project to build a hotel, conference center and golf course at what is now the Tudor Hall property on Breton Bay, Norris worked to ensure that the land was turned over to the town.

Now the town has hundreds of acres of waterfront property to help support economic growth and revitalization, she said.

"He knew it could be more than just a boat ramp," McKay said. "He wanted a public park down there."

"It wasn't easy."

One of his most well-known accomplishments in public service was helping to bring about the Port of Leonardtown Winery on McIntosh Run on Route 5 in cooperation with then President of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, Thomas F. McKay, which converted an old state highway facility into what has become a significant agritourism driver in the region that has garnered St. Mary's and Leonardtown praise for its award-winning wines.

Norris' work in town government helped lay the groundwork for much of the success Leonardtown enjoys today, including its state Mainstreet Community designation as well as its state Arts and Entertainment District moniker.

McKay remembered a man who was completely dedicated to his town and its success.

Norris always kept a busy schedule, whether it was attending meetings with the town council, Leonardtown Business Association, or many of the town events such as the Veterans Day Parade or the Christmas on the Square tree lighting ceremony.

"He was always at every event," she said. "He was right in the middle of it."

"In later years he loved bringing his



grandkids to those events."

Norris's legacy of service helped to shape the town as it is today.

"His enthusiasm for the town was infectious," McKay said. "This was where he wanted to be."

"It was ingrained in him to make sure this town was successful."

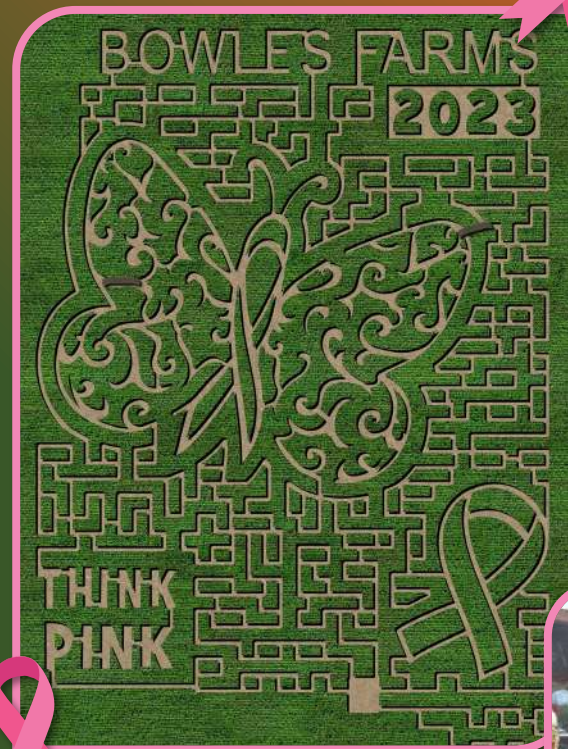
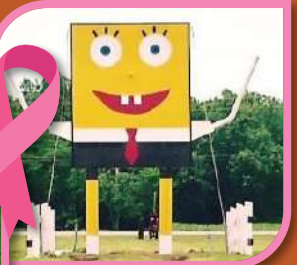
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What's Happening this Weekend:

Scouts Weekend (Oct. 7 & 8): Come with your troop or in uniform and receive \$1.00 off general admission. Call to book your troop's reservation (for groups of 15 or more).

Classic Car Show (Oct. 8, 10am-2pm): Southern Knights Rod & Custom Car Group will have a display of classic cars. Cost is only admission to the grounds. Enter your classic vehicle and you might take home a trophy.



Fall Season runs through Sunday, October 29th

Saturdays: 10:00am - 6:00pm
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Admission: \$15 per person (kids 3 & under free)

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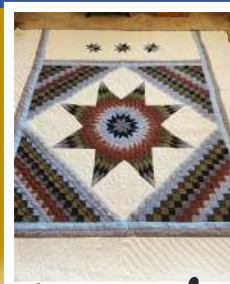
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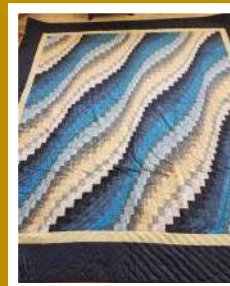
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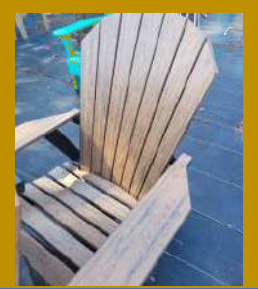
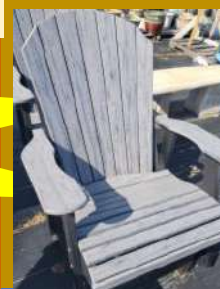
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Norris, Former Leonardtown Mayor, Passes Away

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

J. Harry Norris, III one of Leonardtown's longest serving mayors and a lifelong St. Mary's County resident died Oct. 2.

Norris served Leonardtown for 17 years as its chief elected leader, serving from 1995 to 2012.

He and wife Jannette Norris, who predeceased him, served as county treasurer while he was mayor, making them a political power couple.

The former mayor also served on the town council from 1971 to 1978 and then as president of the town council — a position which transformed into mayor — from 1978 to 1981.

On his second tenure as mayor Norris came into office when the town was facing serious economic problems and one of his main priorities was its revitalization.

He was faced with a downtown with shuttered businesses, boarded up buildings and even homeless who would camp on the lawn of the Circuit Court.

"To me one of the most significant stories about Chip when he came back in 1995, he and Jan were trying to decide where to go and he looked around and saw empty buildings and people sleeping in boxes on the town square," said Town Administrator Laschelle McKay, whom Norris hired in



2000. "He told me he looked around and said: 'Somebody's got to do something.'"

He fought to keep government anchors like the court house and the post office in the downtown area — there was a move to consolidate those services in the county governmental center close to the District Court building at that time — to ensure that there was both vehicular and pedestrian traffic to

keep it viable.

There were key businesses such as the Bell Motor Co., Mattingley Gardiner Funeral Home and First National Bank of St. Mary's that Norris also fought to keep anchored in the town square, she said.

"He knew the downtown would die without them," she said of her former boss.

His daughter, Kelly Loveless, remem-

bered how "Chip," as he was often referred to as, recruited both her and her sister Kristin Caton, in his and their mother's political campaigns.

"He made us knock on doors to get names of people who would back him up [in his quest to keep the court house in the downtown]," Loveless said. "We hated it; but in hindsight we're very proud of what he did."

They would also be put to work putting out campaign signs for their mother's political run for treasurer, a seat she would hold for many years.

"You could tell the passion that he had," Loveless said. "He was way more proud of my mom than anything he did."

She credited her father with the progress that Leonardtown has made over the past several decades.

"My dad literally saved this town and the court house," Loveless said.

More than that, Norris's style of leadership has helped set the tempo for how the town does business with citizens and businesses to this day.

"He was definitely my mentor," McKay said. "He had a natural ability to bring people together and he just knew what the right thing to do for the town was."

McKay said Norris found ways to make sure the town government was a facilitator

See Norris, page 9



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Regional Commandant Talks NAS Pax Security, Traffic Woes



Rear Adm. Nancy Lacore

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Rear Adm. Nancy Lacore, commandant of the Naval District of Washington, in speaking to a small gathering of defense industry and military officials, said that the manning of security posts at Naval Air Station Patuxent River continues to be a serious problem that requires constant attention.

Lacore, who spoke at an event hosted by The Patuxent Partnership at the University System of Maryland's Southern Maryland campus this week, said it was not a leadership problem on base, rather one of scarce personnel resources.

"The Navy's not reaching its recruiting goals," Lacore said, noting there was a particular shortage of civilian personnel for security police and for military masters at arms. "We have the hardest time in getting

people down here for that."

This is important for the larger St. Mary's community because fewer security personnel at the three entrance gates to the base means more traffic backups on county roads.

Capt. Derrick Kingsley, commanding officer of the naval air station, said there had been plans to bring Gate No. 2 at the Great Mills Road intersection farther in to the base but those plans have not been funded.

Bringing the gate closer in would allow more queuing space for cars and provide some relief for main arterial roads, Kingsley said.

But the big problem, he said, was a cultural one among tenant commands and program offices on base.

"Everyone wants to come on base at the same time," Kingsley said. "There's no appetite among tenants to change their work hours."

Moreover, even when more civilian base police are hired, military masters at arms were mustering out of service, Kingsley said, leaving any gains in personnel somewhat hollow.

Lacore said the Naval District of Washington remained committed to strengthening the infrastructure on base as well as finding out how it holds up in an emergency.

To that end, Lacore said there was a planned electrical outage for the base in December to ascertain any weaknesses in getting it started again.

"We'll learn a lot after that," she said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Hewitt Will Take Critical Area Seat for St. Mary's

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Commissioner Mike Hewitt who once sat on the state's Critical Area Commission representing St. Mary's County's interest with regards to preservation and protection of the watershed and shore line will do so again for the time being.

He said Sept. 26 that the commission would allow him to fill in the seat, currently left vacant for St. Mary's, until another nominee can be selected by Gov. Wes Moore.

In the week prior to his announcement, Hewitt said publicly that the governor had not made an appointment for St. Mary's to the commission, but admitted that that statement was incorrect.

Moore had made a selection, Hewitt said, but that person was able to fulfill the appointment and the senate was not able to make a confirmation.

"We found out... that I can reassume the position as a holdover until the [state senate confirmation takes place later this winter," Hewitt said at the meeting of the

Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

Hewitt had also said in the week prior that the Critical Area Commission, which often holds strict sway over development or construction in the 1,000 foot buffer to the shore line, was seeking judicial review over a court case in which a judge ruled in favor of property owners in the critical area who wanted to build a swimming pool for therapeutic purposes.

The county's own Board of Appeals had also approved the property owners request prior to the court action brought by the Critical Area Commission.

"It was the right decision by the Board of Appeals and I strongly support it," Hewitt said.

A St. Mary's County resident already sits on the Critical Area Commission, their membership rolls show, but not in direct representation for the Mother County.

Rosa Hance, a Great Mills resident, fills an at-large seat for the 29-member commission.

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Court Grants Injunction for Concealed Carry Restriction

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Just days before a new law was to take effect that would effectively ban almost all legal concealed carry in Maryland, a U.S. District Court approved an injunction against it.

The law, known as SB 1, was to take effect Oct. 1 and would have restricted those in Maryland who have concealed carry permits from carrying their weapons from virtually every venue in public life, even private property unless the owner of that property had given prior permission.

The law was passed on partisan basis in the General Assembly, heavily favored by Democrats but decried by gun rights advocates as unconstitutional, violating the Second Amendment of the constitution and the tenants of the recent Bruen decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled that forcing law-abiding residents to provide a "good and substantial" reason to receive a concealed carry permit was also in violation of their civil rights.

The Bruen decision held that civilians have the right to carry a weapon for self-defense outside the home.

Delegate Matt Morgan (R-Dist. 29A) hailed the injunction.

"What was discussed early in the week and seemed impossible was just granted," Morgan said in an e-mail to his constituents. "The court provided injunctive relief for private property, locations that sell alcohol, and public demonstrations.

This is the exact amendment that I offered on the House Floor [during the Maryland General Assembly.]

"This is a huge step forward, and I want to congratulate Maryland Shall Issue and the NRA, especially chief plaintive Susannah Kipke, on pulling a rabbit out of the hat," Morgan continued. "They have accomplished the impossible and scored a court injunction on SB1.

"It's proof that good things can happen if you are willing to fight for what is right."

The group of plaintiffs filed suit against the soon-to-be-enacted law following its passage and the partial injunction was handed down Sept. 29.

The injunction does not completely quash many of the specific prohibitions in SB 1, stating that the plaintiffs are unlikely to succeed in nullifying the restrictions on carrying guns in "sensitive places" such as

government buildings, schools, museums, health care facilities, state parks and mass transit facilities.

The court did opine, though, that the plaintiffs had a strong chance on successfully challenging carry restrictions in places that sell alcohol and private property where the owner had not posted a sign granting permission ahead of time.

"The court agrees with plaintiffs and finds that they have suffered an injury in fact," the preliminary injunction reads. "The Second Amendment 'presumptively guarantees' citizens the right to carry arms 'in public for self-defense.'

"Plaintiffs have alleged that they carry firearms in privately-owned buildings that are open to the public and that do not contain signage granting consent to carry. Thus, they have expressed an intention to engage in a course of conduct affected with their Second Amendment rights, and SB 1 creates a credible threat of prosecution."

Injunctive relief was also granted by the court for carrying firearms at public demonstrations, the ruling stated.

The decision was issued by Judge George L. Russell, III.

The Maryland House Republican Caucus praised the injunction.

"The Court has recognized that so many of the restrictions the far-left wing of the General Assembly tried to place on lawful, peaceful gun owners went way beyond the bounds of what is constitutionally allowed," said House Minority Leader Jason Buckel. "During the debate on Senate Bill 1, the members of the House Republican Caucus repeatedly and exhaustively warned our Democratic colleagues that parts of this bill went too far."

Senate Republicans were also jubilant.

"Today's injunction is a win for public safety in Maryland," said Senate Minority Leader Steve Hershey. "Maryland Democrats continue to pass unconstitutional laws to strip away the rights of law-abiding citizens while trying to pass it off as public safety legislation.

"Maryland citizens demand real legislative efforts to reduce crime. Democrat leadership needs to abandon their political agenda and focus on saving our crime-ridden cities by getting career killers and rapists off the streets."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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“MY FATHER LITERALLY SAVED THIS TOWN AND THE COURT HOUSE.”

KELLY LOVELESS ON THE PASSING OF HER FATHER, FORMER MAYOR J. HARRY NORRIS III



LOCAL 3
NDW Commandant visits St. Mary's



LOCAL 11
Sheriff's office reveals survey results

ON THE COVER
Leonardtown mourns the loss of former Mayor J. Harry "Chip" Norris III

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, OCT 5 Partly Cloudy Hi: 78° Lo: 63°	FRI, OCT 6 Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 60°	SAT, OCT 7 Showers Hi: 64° Lo: 47°	SUN, OCT 8 Mostly Sunny Hi: 62° Lo: 46°
MON, OCT 9 Mostly Sunny Hi: 64° Lo: 49°	TUE, OCT 10 Mostly Sunny Hi: 68° Lo: 48°	WED, OCT 11 Sunny Hi: 68° Lo: 49°	THU, OCT 12 Mostly Sunny Hi: 70° Lo: 52°



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**Sheriff's Survey Shows
Traffic Is Top Concern**

**SoMD Wedding
Guide Inside**

NORRIS LOVED LEONARDTOWN

